

1362



A
GENUINE LETTER
FROM A
Freeman of *Bandon*,
TO
GEORGE FAULKNER.



1755

Jan

GEORGE FAULKNER

RECEIVED



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H. H. - G. -

OCCASIONED

By a LYING Extract of a Letter from Bandon,
inserted in HIS JOURNAL the 24th of De-
cember last.

D U B L I N:

Printed in the Year M,DCC,LV.

A

GENUINE LETTER

FROM A

Freeman of London



GEORGE FAULKNER

By a very Extract of a Letter from London
intended to the Towns and the
County of London

DUBLIN:

Printed by J. M. M. M. M.



A
GENUINE LETTER
FROM A
FREEMAN of BANDON;
TO
GEORGE FAULKNER.

Bandon, Jan. 7, 1755.

Dear George,

I AM a *Freeman* of this Town, and one of those who dined together at *Morris's*, on the 17th of December; and have been hitherto your constant Reader and Admirer. Your everlasting Complaints of *Want of Bread, Industry, Honesty, clean Streets, pure Air, and Health*, though not strictly true, have however, for their sound Policy, made me in Love with you. Truly, we, who live by the Sweat

of

of our Brows, as I may say, have the most powerful Cause, that is, Self-Interest, to be enamoured of you. For you have spread far and near a most frightful Description of this Country, and of the Morals of the People; which, we suppose, will effectually prevent Strangers taking the Bread out of our Mouths, let the Legislature make what Laws they please for their Encouragement. And doubtless, this is the Thing that hath so powerfully recommended you to *another Set of Folk*, who begrudge every Symptom of Prosperity to this Country, that may be attended by *sawcy Principles of Liberty, and an unpardonable Presumption of thinking for one's self*; and hath drawn to you their Smiles and Embraces. Two or three such News-Writers as you are, my dear George, in GREAT-BRITAIN, would have saved the People from all their Trouble and Perplexity, and relieved them from their gloomy Apprehensions about the NATURALIZATION-BILL. For they must indeed be forlorn Wretches, who would voluntarily rush into a Country, where raged PLAGUE, PESTILENCE, and FAMINE, BATTLE, MURDER, and SODDEN DEATH.

HOWEVER, we were not a little shocked, at your plunging over Head and Ears, on the *slavish Side* of the Political Questions bandied about

about of late in this Kingdom; we could not reconcile this to your former Conduct, or to your great *Boasting of Patriotism*: Not but there were those, who long ago foretold all this, and held you in the utmost Contempt. They said, "*that from the Infant you tramp-
led upon the Ashes of the DEAN, THE
MAKER OF YOUR TEMPORAL FORTUNE,
your Virtue was no more, and that you
were ready for a Buyer.*" But still your Merit, on the former Account, engaged me and others of my Class, to puff you at such a Rate in this Town, as to *exclude every Com-
petitor.*

WE could not indeed but like the *UNI-
VERSAL ADVERTISER*; the Firmness of the Author in the *Cause of Liberty*, and his undaunted and disinterested Perseverance to *celebrate his Heroes*, for their superior Virtue, did, I must own, highly recommend him: But, we paid for his Intelligence; we had your *Work gratis*; and besides, you have contrived to give us all the Advantage of the Labour of his Heroes, by painting this Country as a *loathsome Dungeon*, fit only for the Habitation of *Toads and Parricides*, and thereby securing all the Fruits to ourselves. But, alas! your Time is over; we can puff you no more. I may as well whistle to the Wind. The *Fibs*
and

and frolicksome Representations with which you have been charged, we at length sorely feel. That lying Extract of a Random Letter, published the 24th of December last, in your Journal, hath disconcerted us all, and hath overset one of the best contrived Schemes of the Age.

HEAR our Story, my old Friend, our lamentable Story; learn the miserable Distress you have brought upon your Followers and Well-Wishers, and help us out of our Dilemma, if you can.

THIS Town was incorporated by James I. by the Stile of *Provost, Burgesses, and Commonalty*, as we hear, *Belfast, Dungannon, Newtown, Tralee*, and several other Places were about the same Time. Distinct Powers were given to Burgesses and Commonalty, and some were given to them jointly. But the poor Freemen had no Power left to them, since 1622; all was swallowed by a Council, called a Representative of the Commons, but chosen by one another, and by the Burgesses. We have always grumbled and often struggled for Liberty, but without Success. The Burgesses to a Man are in the Interest of the *SPEAKER*, and, to say the Truth, *so are the Freemen too*; for we cannot deny that, which

is glaring as the Sun of a Summer's Day ; *that he is a true Friend of his Country, and at this Time the chief Support of it too, under God and the King ;* and indeed we are not yet desperate enough to declare against him, *merely because the Burgesses of Bandon are for him.* We should indeed be much obliged to him, though he be a Burgess himself, if he would take our Part. But whatever Part he may take in our Dispute, we shall never be forgetful of the great Services rendered to this Protestant Town, to the Province, and to the whole Kingdom, by his noble Ancestors ; or the glorious Part he himself hath at all Times taken, when our Religion or Liberty was in Danger, or the HANOVER SUCCESSION, *the grand Pillar of both, was threatened.* I cannot deny but it hath been whispered to us, ever since THAT STRANGER *set up for an Interest in Cork,* that the SPEAKER alone stood in the Gap for his Friends the Burgesses, and hindered us from obtaining all we wished or required ; and when the Favour of Government was withdrawn from him, we were told, " now is your Time to recover your " Rights, and to bear down all Opposition." Just in the Nick arrived a REVEREND Doctor from Court, with a Government Living, and a Dispensation to *overlook* three Churches. He had in his last Jaunt totally acquired

a new Language. For now, without Cessation, he *seized* all he met, with a flaming Account of the *profound Wisdom and Candour* of the L—— L——, the *Religion, Resignation, Charity, and Primitive Qualities* of the P——, the *Meekness and Martial Prowess* of L— G——, the *Liberality and Disinterestedness* of the E— of B——, and so on to the Kettle-Drummer of the State; and ever ended his Discourse with a Puff of his mighty Interest with the great Men. He concurred in the Advice that was given to us, for wagging of Law; and over and above, he promised for his Part, that he would, WITH HIS OWN HANDS, *present a Memorial for us to the Duke of Dorset*, and would solicit our Affairs, until we got what the Law could not give us, *an Alteration of our Charter*. It never entered into our Thoughts, that, by following this Advice, we should become of a Party against the *Honourable Speaker*, no more than we could have thought, that *our Adviser*, a younger Brother of a Clergyman made a *Bishop* by the Interest and Intervention of the *Speaker*, who was provided for most plentifully by his Brother, at the Instance and by the *special Recommendation of the Speaker*, and entrusted with a Burgeship in a neighbouring Corporation by the *Speaker*, could prove a Traitor to his Benefactor, who had raised
his

his House to a Level with, or higher than, its Neighbours; as soon as he believed, the Power of conferring more Benefits was taken away. In this Manner, we were led to contribute 4, 6, 8, 10, or 12 Pence per Week each, as we were enabled by our Earnings, to institute a Suit at Law; and the Matter and Manner of the Memorial was decreed to be fixed at a Meeting of Freemen, to be had before the Doctor's Departure for England, whither, upon a Suggestion of a Change in the Irish Government, He thought himself obliged to go, to be advantageously handed over, by the present to the future Government, as an Appurtenance of the Castle of Dublin; in hopes, that in Time a new Office might be created for him; and he might, perhaps, become Chaplain to the Battle-Axes. The Doctor, our Law-Agent, and the principal Conductors put their Heads together, and appointed the 17th of December for the Consultation, at the House of Robert Morris. And thus were we innocently drawn in to that Meeting, not dreaming, that we should be set in Opposition to the principal Gentlemen of our Country, who met at the BOYLE-ARMS, to celebrate the great and glorious 17th of December, 1753.

The Assembly consisted of William Litten, late Writing-Master, now DRAM-SELLER, in

the Chair.—*Thomas Tremoy*, MILLER and
 WEAVER.—*Daniel Sweeny*, the younger,
 BARBER, COMBER, and ALE-DRAPER.—
William Brown, JOYNER.—*John Brown*,
 BARBER.—*John Burchil*, BUTCHER.—*Ni-*
cholas Merry, ALE-DRAPER.—*Richard Savage*,
 MALSTER, and SHOP-KEEPER.—*Edward*
Cotter, SHOP-KEEPER.—*John Boisseau*, APO-
 THECARY.—*Francis Alman*, WEAVER and
 SNUFF SELLER.—*Joseph Thomas*, SHOP-KEEP-
 ER.—*Robert Morris*, MAN OF THE HOUSE.
James Kell, COMBER and ALE-DRAPER.—
Thomas Morgan, SNUFF-SELLER, and WEA-
 VER.—*John Holland*, WEAVER.—*Thomas Hol-*
land, WEAVER, and MALSTER.—*Ralph Clear*,
 Senior, COMBER.—*Ralph Clear*, Junior, COM-
 BER.—*Nicholas Seynter*, CLOTHIER.—*Jere-*
miah Biggs, COMBER and WEAVER.—*George*
Harris, PRESSER.—*John Alworth*, COMBER.
 —*Robert Williams*, WEAVER.—*John Mor-*
ris, WEAVER.—*David Hunter*, BLUE-DYER.
 —*John Gilman*, ATTORNEY.—*James Hawes*,
 WEAVER and SHOP-KEEPER.—*Samuel Mil-*
ner, CLOTHIER.—*Richard Dowden*, LINEN-
 WEAVER.—*Richard Dowden*, the younger,
 LINEN-WEAVER.—*William Sprat*, MALSTER,
 and SHOP-KEEPER.—*William Popbam*, COM-
 BER. But after all, neither Doctor, Agent,
 or Lawyer appeared; notwithstanding the
 Policy and Address, in drawing us together.

SOME

SOME short Time before we sat to dine, ALLEYN CARTHY, *Proctor*, and *Tytbe-Gatherer* to the Reverend Doctor ST. JOHN BROWNE, addressed himself to two or three Freemen, standing together, and separate from the rest, and hoped, they would suffer him, an old Freeman of the Corporation, as he called himself, to join and dine with them. They made no Objection, if he was a Freeman. He fled to his Master with the News, that he was to be admitted; and did not return, untill we were some Time at Dinner. Before the Cloth was removed, (so impatient was he) he took JEREMIAH BIGGS out of the Room, to a private Conference; and soon after they returned, JERRY BIGGS pulled out of his Pocket a long List of Toasts, in which were, MAY THE SPIRIT OF THE 117, WHO VOTED ON THE 17TH OF DECEMBER, 1753, BE EVER THE DISTINGUISHING SPIRIT OF THE IRISH HOUSE OF COMMONS; THAT THE DUKE OF DORSET MAY RETURN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND, WHERE HE EVER WILL BE REMEMBERED WITH GRATITUDE, FOR HIS STEADY ADHERENCE TO THE PROSPERITY THEREOF; THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE; HIS EXCELLENCY THE LORD PRIMATE, AND DISAPPOINTMENT TO ALL HIS ENEMIES; THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH; THE

Rt.

RT. HON. LORD GEORGE SACKVILLE; COLONEL PONSONBY. The List thus produced, was handed about, to try the Temper of the Company; and had the Fate, *for so much, to be extremely disliked*; and not a Man presumed to offer one of the *disagreeable* Toasts to the Company; who were disposed so much otherwise, that the MAN OF THE HOUSE toasted LIBERTY AND PROPERTY AND LORD KILDARE; and others toasted THE SPEAKER; SIR RICHARD COX, AND SIR JOHN PREKE; and all drank them with the greatest Appearance of Pleasure and Satisfaction.

AFTER all this, how surprized do you think we were, to see ourselves *falsely and ignominiously* branded, in your Journal, as *Enemies to the Majority of the House of Commons*; indeed, we expressed such Resentment, as honest Men naturally would, for the highest Injury offered to their Reputations; and in the first Gust of our honest Rage, would certainly have given any Evidence to the Publick of our Innocence. But the *Contrivers of this Plot have now infused a Belief, that it is safer to let the LYE pass unanswered, than, by a Contradiction, to inflame and lose the great Friends that have been made for us; and to be left for ever labouring under the*

Tyranny

Tyranny and Oppression of the *Burgesses*, our irreconcilable Enemies. This Art has prevailed; and we have all (*one excepted*) resolved, *not to certify any Thing contrary to that which has been said for us*; that we may receive all the Benefit we can from the invented Tale, since we are conscious we have none of the Guilt. This private Epistle to you, I cannot suppose to be a Breach of my Agreement with my Brethren; for you will certainly, upon your own Account as well as mine, *not let one Word thereof transpire*.

ONE indeed, more tender of his private Reputation, and less regardful of the mighty Advantages that are to flow from our deep Policy, has, in Spight of all Menaces, broke from us, and is determined to clear himself aloud. To obviate this, *some of the lowest* have been so worked upon, and are such *Enthusiasts*, that they believe it their Duty, and consequently meritorious, *to avow the Fact and to adopt the Guilt and Infamy*, rather than lose the fair Prospect they had before them. I cannot indeed go so far with my Brethren; but I shall keep their Secret.

Now, dear George, behold into what a Corner you have driven your Friends—*We dare not confess or deny*.—Why would you
reduce

reduce your Well-wishers to this Strait? Nay, I doubt whether even our future Silence can avail us any Thing; for in the Beginning, from the Fullness of our Hearts, we exclaimed, without Reserve, against those who did us this Wrong; and so many Witnesses there were, that I much fear, future Caution will rather bring us Shame than Profit. *Read but our Names, and consider, what great Matter of Credit* could be had from us, to your Cause, though we had been perswaded to drink those Toasts, your Friends *so much value themselves upon.* What need your Patrons, who boast every where, that the Property of the Kingdom is on their Side, seek for Popularity in Corners, and amongst so mean Persons as we are? What must we think, *who know you have claimed an Interest further with us that they have not;* but that you have imposed upon us in the like Manner, by your Relations from other Places? For in Truth, *we never hear of any Advocates they have in this Part of the World,* but the *lowest Revenue Officers,* and now and then an *Expectant for an higher Employment.* I doubt not but you would have taken Care, that our Compliments should have been conveyed in GOLD BOXES, but that it would have been soon discovered, that

that we could not have afforded *such costly Honours*. Indeed, Friend George, this is a paultry Effort, and bad Bolster for a very wretched Cause. If such Misrepresentation can pass without Name or Sanction, as *Sterling Strength* of your Friends on this Side of the Water, you can make Evidence enough of the Sort for those on the other Side.

But when you are about to serve these new Friends of yours, in whom, you know, your QUONDAM MASTER, THE DEAN, would not have *exulted* greatly; why have you not some Care of yourself? Why did you set out this *noble Drinking Match*, to be the Effect of *our Esteem for the 117 who voted FOR THE SUPPORT OF HIS MAJESTY'S PREROGATIVE, IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, ON the 17TH OF DECEMBER, 1753?* Pray what were the 122 doing at that same Time? Don't you know, that their Enemies have gained their Points out of Parliament, by *misrepresenting the 122*, as opposing the King's Prerogative, when, in Truth, they, as faithful Trustees of the People, only *resisted the Introduction and forcing upon them a new Prerogative*, by which Liberty must so far suffer. For every Enlargement of Prerogative of the Crown, must be a Diminution of the Liberty of

Goldsmith

the People; was it then against the 122 the 117 supported the King's Prerogative? Dear George, do you expect this Parliament will ever meet again? Or do you really believe, the Black List will grow into a Majority? You may as well hope, that Ireland will forego her Pretensions to Magna Charta. Or do you depend upon there being a new Parliament? Alas! do you not remember the Resentment of the Parliament in 1715 to those who affronted the Parliament of 1713? THE LIBERTY OF THE PEOPLE MUST BE ANNIHILATED, BEFORE THE MAJORITY OF A PARLIAMENT MAY BE INSULTED, BY THE TOOLS OF ANY MINISTER, WITH IMPUNITY. Reflect upon these Things; and reproach yourself for the Folly of enraging those, whose Affection you have not courted; but whose Resentment you have earned for an odious Cause. Perhaps, this that I complain of is not your own Work; I hope then, you have your Author ready to be produced. I know you sweat at the Thoughts of NEWGATE, from former Experience. If therefore, the Author of that Libel be a slippery Fellow, I am told by the Attorney, who was one of us, that your securest Method will be, to move for a *ne exeat Regno* against him. You must certainly have heard of a certain

DEAN,

DEAN, who took to his Heels, for Fear of a
 publick Examination last Session. A Hint to
 the wise is sufficient; and if you are any
 Thing, to be sure you are wise, or you could
 not be so like ATTICUS. Upon the whole,
 Culprit, God send you a good Deliverance;
 and further, upon due Consideration, I will
 not declare myself, untill I see how you stand
 before the 122, to whom I am

Cope

a faithful, and most

devoted, Servant,

G_____H_____

F I N I S

DEAR, who took to the Hall for him of a
 public Examination last Session. A. I have to
 the wife is sufficient; and if you are any
 Thing, to be sure, or you could
 not be so like. Upon the whole,
 Culprit, God send you a good Deliverance;
 and further upon due Consideration, I will
 not declare myself, until I see how you stand
 before the Law, to whom I am

6 DE 58

a faithful and
 devoted Servant

F I N I S